

REMARKS

Examiner Brittain has rejected the originally filed claims 1-4, 6, 12 and 13 of the present application. For the reasons which follow, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of the Examiner. The applicant does, however, wish to extend appreciation to Examiner Brittain for the quite detailed review of the claims of the present invention leading to the finding of patentable subject matter of the originally filed claims of the present application and an indication of the allowance of claims 14 and 15 and of the allowability of claims 5 and 7-11 if rewritten.

Claims 5, 7 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form including all the recitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 4 or 6. Thus, it is believed that claims 5, 7 and 8 and the claims which depend therefrom are in condition for allowance for the reasons previously recognized by Examiner Brittain. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

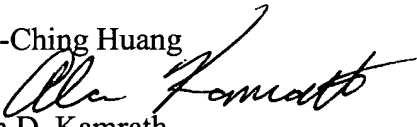
The Examiner has cited the United States patent listed in NOTICE OF REFERENCES CITED as C. By the lack of application of this reference and others like it within the classes or subclasses searched, the Examiner apparently recognizes the clear patentability of the present invention over any of these references.

Therefore, since the claims of the present application have been shown to include limitations directed to the features of applicant's strap fastener set which are neither shown, described, taught, nor alluded to in any of the references cited by the Examiner and by the applicant, whether those references are taken singly or in any combination, the Examiner is requested to allow claims 2-15, as amended, of the present application and to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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